

New **HANDS-FREE** Electronic Device Law

Takes effect July 1, 2015



The state has released this announcement in regards to electronic devices in vehicles.

What does this mean?

- No use of hand-held electronic devices capable of providing voice or data communication while driving or temporarily halted in traffic for a stop sign or traffic signal or other momentary delays.
- This includes cell phones, GPS, tablets, iPods, iPads or other devices that require data
- Emergency calls to 911 or other public safety agencies will be allowed
- One hand non-cellular 2-way radio use will be allowed.
- Teen drivers under the age of 18 will not be allowed to use any electronic devices (hand held or not) except to report an emergency. Anyone violating this will be subject to penalties and license suspension or revocation.
- Bluetooth or other hands-free electronic devices will be allowed.
- If your vehicle is not equipped with Bluetooth functionality, auto service centers can install after-market systems or over the ear devices can be purchased at retailers such as Staples, Best Buy or your cell phone carrier.

Penalties for Violations

1st Offense - \$100 fine

2nd Offense - \$250 fine

3rd Offense within 2 years - \$500

Penalty assessments will be added to the fines

Why is the NH Law important?

- During the past four years, 116 fatal crashes in NH were caused by distraction.
- The increasing use of electronic devices is fast becoming the primary distraction.
- While texting, a driver is 23 times more likely to crash.
- Sending or receiving a text distracts the driver for almost five seconds.
- At 50 mph, we travel longer than the length of a football field during that five seconds.
- Even dialing a phone number increases the risk of crashing by 3 times.

